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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**RECEIVED  
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**OFFICIAL**

Appl. No. : 09/990,244  
 Applicant : Brian W. Hedrick et al.  
 Filed : November 21, 2001  
 TC/A.U. : 1764  
 Examiner : James Arnold, Jr.

Confirmation No. 1968

Docket No. : 106010  
 Customer No. : 23490

Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment  
 Commissioner for Patents  
 P.O. Box 1450  
 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**AMENDMENT "B"**

Sir:

In reply to the Office action of September 30, 2003, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 5 of this paper.